

From: Kim A. Sommer
To: microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov
Date: 11/17/01 8:32am
Subject: short comment on MS-DOJ settlement

Good morning,

I was just given this email address but I have to be elsewhere soon so this will be short.

Based on what I have seen of the proposed agreement the DOJ is giving Microsoft barely a slap on the wrist with the implied explanation that the economy is weak and we don't want to bring down a big player.

I disagree since by being a monopoly *and* using it's monopoly power to illegally hold onto markets, Microsoft has done things that hurt the economy in the long run. By doing this agreement you are giving the company the ability to challenge the government itself. Excuse it already does that.

One area was never addressed and that was Microsoft still requires and will still require manufacturers to only install Microsoft operating systems. The consumer is not given any realistic choice in this. For that "choice" we have software that crashes regularly. The other areas of the settlement allow Microsoft to hinder open source software programs and to still force all but the largest computer manufacturers to a strict control of the "computing experience"

Like the last consent decree this one has no teeth and Microsoft will become more arrogant and powerful. That is the last thing our nation needs.

There will be other people writing you who are more eloquent than I on either side of the proposal. I can only hope my words will tip the balance toward redrafting the agreement.

I hope you rectify this situation,

v/r
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